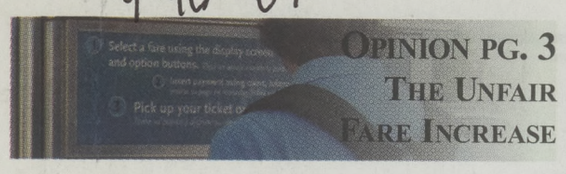
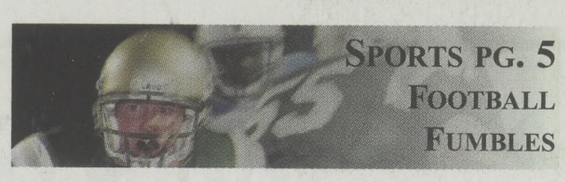
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OPINION PG. 3
THE UNFAIR FARE INCREASE



VALLEY LIFE. 4
LIL' ORPHAN ANNIE FINDS A HOME


SPORTS PG. 5
FOOTBALL FUMBLES


GALLERY PG. 6
A DAY IN THE LIFE

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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 67, ISSUE NO. 2

SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

IT'S *YOUR* PAPER

Pell Grant May Help Students

BY SARAH BISHOP
OPINION EDITOR

Needy Valley College students may be able to look forward to a financial boost of $400 by November if President George Bush signs the College Cost Reduction and Access Act into law.

Almost 96,000 California Community college students could potentially be affected by the increase either through existing Pell Grants or newly freed up funds. The bill acts as a reconciliation of the Higher Education Act (HEA), which has to be reevaluated every six years.

For almost 10 years the California Student Chancellor's office has been lobbying for the elimination of Pell Grant "Tuition Sensitivity Rule" from the HEA. This rule has kept some community college students from qualifying for the Pell Grant because it bases the amount a student may receive on their tuition costs.

"It doesn't affect all students, it's a very small group of students, but the students it does affect are the neediest of Pell Grant recipients," said Barbara Ralston, director of financial aid. "By eliminat-

see *'Pell'* page 2



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

YAY TEAM - Seats were plentiful at Valley College's football game with Moorpark College last Saturday. Often school sprit is a reflection of how well the football team is doing. The Monarchs are off to an 0-3 start.

Assault and Robbery on Valley Campus

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
STAFF WRITER

A Valley College student and his brother were hospitalized recently after being robbed and beaten by seven assailants in a Valley parking lot, according to a report released by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.

The two victims, 18 and 25 who the report said were brothers and whose names have not been released, were attacked at approximately 8:10 p.m. on Sept. 4 when the elder brother picked the younger one up following a class in the North Gym.

The report stated that the men were walking to their car in Parking Lot H when they saw a group of Latino men standing by the gym, throwing up gang signs.

The group then followed the brothers and punched and kicked them while they were attempting to get into their car. The older brother was knocked unconscious during the scuffle, after which the suspects ran from the scene, heading north toward Oxnard Street.

During the robbery, the seven suspects, who the report described as being between 18 to 20 years old and between the heights of approximately 5 feet 7 inches to 6 feet 2 inches, stole a gold and diamond necklace and a diamond ring, with a combined worth of $2800 as well as $20 in cash and a set of car keys.

According to the report, there were several witnesses to the robbery. When the victims asked one of the witnesses why he did not help, the witness replied, "I am just one man...what did you expect me to do?"

After the attack, the victims called their father, who took them to Kaiser Permanente Hospital. The younger brother was then transferred to Olive View Hospital to be treated for a broken thumb and abrasions, while the other was scheduled for surgery at Kaiser to repair injuries to his jaw.

The police report was filed on Sept. 5. The campus sheriff's department learned of the crime when a police officer from Olive View hospital called and informed them that students had been beaten on the college's campus.

Deputy Thomas Lynch of Valley's Sheriff's

see *'Attack'* page 2

Tailgate Barbeque Promotes Valley Pride

BY ERIC L. PATTEN
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The smoky fragrance of burgers and hotlinks filled the Saturday air behind Monarch Stadium. Voices echoed stories of the past and former Valley College football player Paul Sabolic smiled.

Sabolic, along with other members of Valley's Hall of Fame Committee, helped organize a tailgate barbeque prior to the Monarchs' home game versus Moorpark. The casual barbeque was not just for socializing, but the start of what Sabolic calls a series of events to "network and make sure we have a committed group of people who embrace the process of fundraising."

"Valley was a springboard for me; a starting point, and I don't want people to forget that," Sabolic said. "It makes me proud to see people out here to support the school."

Part of the support included indulging in free food.

"Fill up your plates," said Wayne Quigley as guests began to crowd around three tables of food, condiments and drinks.

Quigley, a former running back at Valley, was one of approximately 40 people who

see *'BBQ'* page 2

ASU Seeks Active Valley Students

BY BRAD TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

Valley College's student government is in full swing and its mission is clear: to get students involved, but this sometimes seems like a mission impossible.

The ASU are the Associated Student Union on campus that is actively involved in organizing events such as the book exchange and "welcome day" and promoting student participation. These are the folks on campus who you can see during any number of fairs or club days trying to get students to take advantage of everything Valley has to offer.

"The A.S. what?" asked confused student Gennadiy Yeshu when asked if he knew what the ASU was. "I am guessing it is something with the student union."

This seems to be a view shared by many who are rushing to classes or waiting in line at the bookstore. Roaming the campus you can see numerous flyers for upcoming events and in the halls students walk by glass cases featuring pictures of the Associated Student Union members. But it seems as if many students are still in the dark about what the ASU actually is and does.

"I am trying to get everyone pumped up," said ASU President Mari



GRACIELA SALGADO / VALLEY STAR

READY FOR SUCCESS - ASU President Mari Kiridjian prepares for a semester of involvement

Kiridjian. "A lot of students just go to class and go home or to work, and they just don't understand how productive it can be to a part of things on campus."

The student union is planning upcoming events like club day and the Latino Heritage Celebration on October 3rd as well as a homecoming celebration on October 17th and a possible Halloween event in Monarch Square.

"To have student participation would mean a lot to us, said Athletic Commissioner Diana Jimenez. "I really want to have a great homecoming event."

There are currently eight open positions on the student council ranging from Commissioner of Fine Arts to Parliamentarian. Applications and

see *'ASU'* page 2

VALLEY PEOPLE

Mayo Returns to Make Difference

BY KRISTEN BECKER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The week before the start of fall semester Valley College's new vice president of academic affairs, dressed in a Valley T-shirt and blue jeans, says she's "settling in at a run."

Sandy Mayo took over for Carlie Tronto in August, after spending five years as a dean of mathematics, business and sciences at Santiago Canyon College in Orange. Although Mayo was the director of Valley's PACE program and weekend college program from 1997 to 2002, she has a lot to get used to.

"Even though I was here before, things have changed," she said. "LA Valley College has grown and I've grown, but we weren't here growing together, so I don't plan on making a whole lot of changes really quickly because I need to understand what's here and what works"

In order to make decisions about any possible changes to promote student enrollment, Mayo explained that she needs to talk to members of the school community. "Anybody is welcome to come see me. I have an open door policy," she said. "I love talking to students so they should feel free to drop by."

According to Anna Robinson, Valley College Accelerated Program's senior office assistant and Mayo's assistant when she was PACE director, Mayo has always operated this way.

"She will try to help and if she doesn't know the answer, she will find out," Robinson said. "She will jump through the hoops, as she says, to find out. And



PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

MEET THE NEW BOSS-Sandy Mayo, whose new position of Vice President of Academic Affairs at Valley College keeps her busy, takes a timeout at her office in the Administration building on campus.

she does it 100 percent. She can be in the middle of a meeting with the president and if there is a student who pops their head in, I've seen here do this, she just will stop and say, 'Let's find out.'"

She took a very hands-on approach as a community college math instructor. "I would actually invite [students] to my home on alternate weekends, the weekends we weren't meeting . . . and we would do math in my family room."

After teaching math in high school and at Mission College, Mayo accepted a job at Lockheed (a job she got because one of her students at Mission gave the company her resumé). When she fulfilled her childhood desire to become an engineer and a teacher, she "eventually came back to education because it just felt like I could make a bigger difference there."

As an administrator, Mayo kept that same approach to students. While she was a dean at Santiago Canyon College, she would sometimes fill in when instructors couldn't make it to class, even if this meant taking over the class for the entire semester after the replacement for the instructor didn't work out.

Mayo has brought that her desire to help students with her to Valley. According to Dean of Fine, Performing and Media Arts Dennis Reed, "She's very keen on service to students . . . she's very cognizant of the fact that Academic Affairs is the department that generates the vast majority of funds for the col-

see *'Mayo'* page 2

'ASU'

continued from page 1

job descriptions can be picked up at the ASU office in Campus Center 102 and must be submitted by Friday September 21st.

ASU meetings are open to all students as a forum to voice their concerns or offer suggestions. They are held every Tuesday at 12:45 in Campus Center 104.

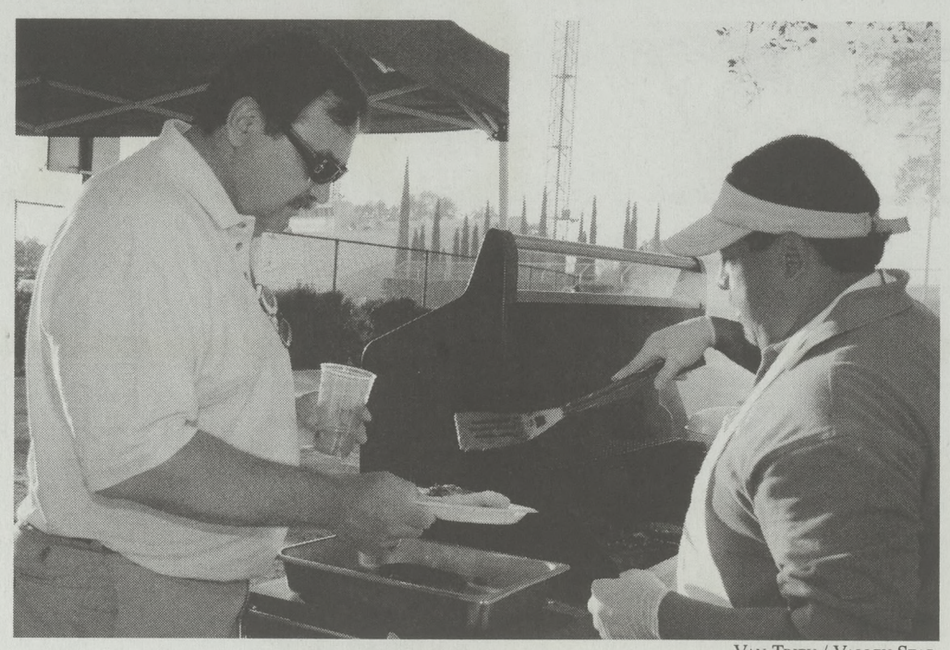
'Mayo'

continued from page 1

lege," he said. "It's students in seats . . . that fund the college . . . It's really important to have good involvement and good class size and that's one of the things she's focusing on."

While she sees the community college system as "an opportunity for every student," Mayo also realizes the challenges Valley's students face.

"Our students are not a captive audience. They have lives, they have jobs quite often," she said. "They have choices about where they're going to go to school . . . and we need to make sure that . . . we understand what the needs of the students are so that their choice [is] not only to come here, but to stay here."



VAN TRIEU / VALLEY STAR

CHOW DOWN - Paul Sabolic, left, is getting a cheese burger from Hector Salazar, right, at the Valley College Athletic Hall of Fame Tailgate BBQ on Saturday September 15, 2007 before the football game against Moorpark.

'BBQ'

continued from page 1

mingled beneath green canopies in the cool evening air.

Hall of Fame Square, a small grassy area behind the Monarch Stadium scoreboard, was neatly littered with tables and folding chairs. Cook Hector Salazar, who helped setup, said the committee asked him to work the event because he operates the concession stand at the football games and people like his food.

As guests filled up on potato salad, chili beans, hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, soda and beer, Salazar didn't stopped moving. A 20-year employee in Valley's receiving department, Salazar kept the grill hot and never forgot to ask if guests wanted cheese on their burgers.

"My personal goal is to raise $100,000 annually and create an active viable funding endowment for all Valley sports," Sabolic said, in between sips of beer.

In June the committee honored the inaugural Hall of Fame class. The 1955 Valley football team, 1976 Women's Volleyball squad and former athletes Fred Grimes and Ed Austin were among those inducted.

Grimes, 59, who played quarterback in the early 70s said, "I came out today to thank the people that were involved with the whole set-up of the Hall of Fame night. To see Valley get something like this going is great."

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'Attack'

continued from page 1

Department said they were still looking into the case.

"Because one of the victims was knocked unconscious, it makes it harder for us to apprehend the suspects," said Lynch. "We don't even know if the suspects were Valley students or not."

He also noted that this kind of incident is rare at Valley, but said that students should program the sheriff's department's phone number, (818) 947-2911, into their cell phones. Students can also dial *80 from campus payphones for free to reach the sheriff's department.

'Pell'

continued from page 1

ing the Pell Grant Sensitivity, it's going to give the community college students in California their fair share and benefit our students here. I'm hoping that this time it will make it through and [Bush] will put pen to paper."

Congress easily passed the College Cost Reduction and Access Act Sept. 7 which, if signed, will also expand the amount that can be granted through the Pell Grant and cuts subsidies to for-profit lenders and non-profit lenders of student loans by $20 billion.

The bill is being touted as the largest change in the Federal Family Education Loan program since its inception in 1965. It could cut interest rates on federally funded loans, limit student loan payments to a reasonable income percentage, and create a new grant for students enrolled in teacher preparatory programs. Many congressmen and women had positive things to say about its passage through the House and Senate.

"This bill will do more to help students and families in this country pay for college than any effort since the GI Bill," said Rep. George Miller (D-CA), the chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee in an official press release. "There is no smarter policy – or greater priority – than helping all students afford to get a good college education and pursue their dreams."

The American Council on Education (ACE) also strongly supports the bill and sent letters to Congress to encourage the bill's success.

"The Congress will have made an historic contribution toward increasing college access for low-income students," said the letter according to the ACE official website.

While Ralston would like to see the bill passed she also has some reservations about the way certain funds might be redistributed. Some programs like the popular work-study program may find themselves on the chopping block to fatten the Pell and help pay for the national deficit.

"Yes it's great to award Pell, but not everyone qualifies for Pell," said Ralston. "Although [these other programs] are also need based, you want to be able to have a variety of programs to offer students."

The Financial Aid Office return to its normal hours: Sept. 24: Mon 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tues. through Thurs. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., closed Fri.

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AN OPINION

Britney Spears Beats Racism to the Back Page

BY BRAD TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

In a week where all anyone could talk about was the train wreck of Britney's VMA performance, there was real social injustice taking place in Jena, Louisiana. The small town is under fire for what many see as severe racism, and I find it almost unbelievable that most of the country seems to be turning a blind eye in favor of bashing a pop star.

The small town is under fire for what many see as severe racism and . . . most of the country seems to be turning a blind eye.

The story plays out like something from a John Grisham novel, or any number of Hollywood films. Last December a sleepy southern town was put on the map when black teens at a local high school chose to sit under a tree in the courtyard that is considered a white-only spot on campus, the next day three nooses hung from that tree and the town simply called it a prank.

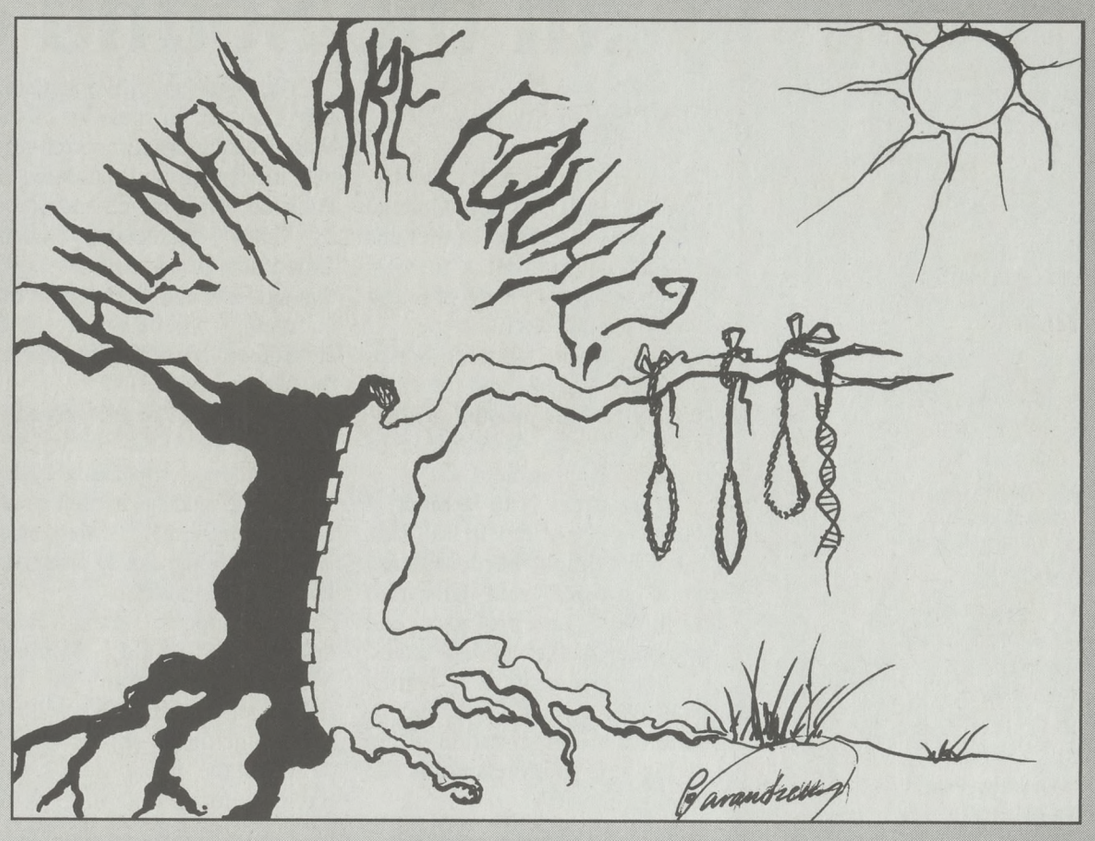
The tension in the town boiled over when a black student was beaten for trying to attend an all-white party and then a white teen pulled a gun on several black teens at a gas station citing self-defense. The black teens were charged with assault and robbery of the gun after they reported the incident. None of the white teens were charged with anything. All of this lead to six young black men being charged with attempted second-degree murder for allegedly attacking a white student on campus leaving them facing 15-100 years in jail.

This is 2007, how can this even happen?

This is 2007, how can this even happen? In the age of the Internet and instant information I would think that the reaction would be deafening. But I have found only small grass roots protests and numerous "MySpace" pages and "YouTube" videos trying to get the word out to a public that seems oblivious.

The "Jena Six" had their day in court, the judge threw out the charges, but the District Attorney is still seeking the maximum sentences and appealing.

I am sure in a few years there will indeed be a movie made about this town and what is happening, and people will all flock to see it to free themselves from some social guilt. But maybe we should all take a few minutes away from Britney and get involved in this now and make sure this story at least makes it to the front page.



PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN / POLITICAL CARTOON

AN OPINION

MTA Raises Prices, Empties Wallets

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
STAFF WRITER

When traveling to school students have the choice of commuting by car, taking public transport, or, if they live close enough, walking or riding a bike. However, the choice of taking public transport may be taken away from some students after an unwarranted fare increase by the MTA over the summer.

The fare rise will occur over the next two years, with tickets such as the popular day pass eventually rising from $3 to $6, the monthly pass rising from $52 to

$75, and a college student pass rising from $30 to $43 in 2009.

Approximately 1,500 bus and rail riders protested outside the MTA board meeting on the 24th of May, saying that they could not afford to pay any extra for transportation – which, for many people, is the only

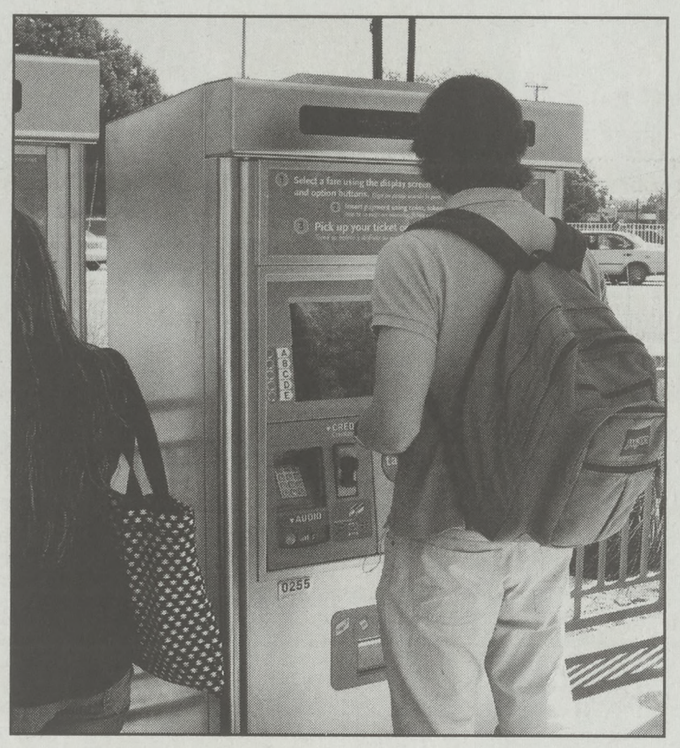
way that they can get to work or school. According to an article in the LA Times, some protesters claimed that the MTA was being racist, as the majority of riders are of the Black and Latino working class.

However, those who depend on the MTA to get around Los

Angeles should be grateful that the fare increases were not even higher - the original plan was to raise a one-way ticket to $2 from $1.25, a daily pass to $8 and the monthly pass to a whopping $120 in the next two years. The MTA board then decided against the higher rises because they were "too draconian."

Such a fare increase cannot be justified. Many students, not just at this college but across Los Angeles, are already strapped for cash, paying for tuition, books and living expenses. Having to pay an extra $13 a month to travel may not sound like much, but for some it means making a choice between coming to school, or not coming at all.

What is adding insult to injury is that the MTA will not use the increased revenue to improve bus services, or increase the size of their bus fleet. Instead, the MTA will use it to build another Metro rail line, running from downtown L.A. to Santa Monica. The



LARRY/ VALLEY STAR

Shelling out cash. - Students suffer after MTA raises fares.

MTA states that this new project will cost $600 million to build. What would make more sense is to build something similar to the Orange Line – Which cost only $349.6 million dollars to construct, and has been a runaway success for the authority.

For an organization who promotes cleaner air and increasing ridership, the MTA is going the wrong way about it. This fare rise is sure to force people back into their cars – at least, those who can afford to drive.

AN OPINION

The New Capital Hill?

BY JAMES BENNET
STAFF WRITER

Last Friday I got my paycheck from work: $101.67. Big money for me, I can spend that on about ten mixed drinks, or perhaps 33 glasses of Pabst Blue Ribbon at my neighborhood bar. Unfortunately, my money wouldn't get me very far if I were to run a political campaign. I might need to get a new job if I want to compete with the likes of Hillary Clinton, who currently has $63 million in her campaign coffers. This election, demand for campaign money has skyrocketed. The benchmark to be considered a serious candidate has been set at $100 million by Q2 2008.

Most of the serious money intake comes from a process called "Bundling." Bundling is a clever workaround of the $2,300 cap on individual donations. The process is simple, a "bundler" whips out the rolodex and gathers donations from all of his buddies, takes their names, and sends it all in one lump sum to their candidate of choice. The really cool thing about this is, if you donate enough money you get a super nifty title. In 2004, evil mastermind Karl Rove designed a system of perks for donators: If you gave $100,000 you were a "Pioneer," if you raised $200,000 you were a "Ranger," add 50 large to that and you're a Super (Power) Ranger. Hillary is doing the same deal, but this time you're a Hillraiser for gathering $100,000. Everyone has their own gimmick this time around.

Gimmicks masking the real injustice of out-of-control campaign finance: nullifying the ability of future Andrew Jacksons and other members of the proletariat to stand a chance in the national arena. Only the super rich can play this game. I might not be a Hillraiser, but I am an Eyebrowraiser.

Letter to the Editor

BY MARTIN RUIZ

First of all, I have to say that although I do lean more to the conservative side, I am not a Republican apologist. I'm not afraid to admit when Republicans are being hypocritical, but you have to admit that pretty much all politicians are hypocritical.

Senator Craig should resign, not because he may or may not be homosexual, but because he pled guilty simply to try and make the case go away. A legislator, of all people, should see to it that the law is fully carried out. If he was guilty, he should be honest about it. Despite what most Democrats believe, character does matter because honesty and integrity is important for the public to be able to trust those in public office. Harkening back to Clinton, it doesn't matter whether the lie is big or small, relevant or not to their functioning on the job. What's important is that we should be able to trust their words and deeds.

I'd like to see the Valley Star be more balanced in its opinions. It's important to be critical of both sides. Maybe write a story about how the Democrats have not lived up to the hype of all their promises since they won the majority in Congress almost a year ago. How are the Democrats any better than Republicans? They're all hypocrites.

The only time I've seen you be critical of the Democrats is when they're not being liberal enough or not bashing Bush enough. It might even be an interesting twist for someone on staff to write a story about what the Bush administration or the Republicans have accomplished. Although you personally may not see anything they've done right, it's all a matter of opinion.

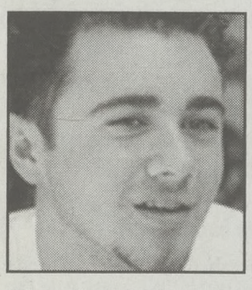
WE'RE NOT PSYCHIC

So tell us what's on your mind! Contact The Valley Star at thevalleystar@yahoo.com, drop by the newsroom at BJ114 or call us at (818) 947-2576. Letters and emails should be limited to 300 words, may be edited for publication and include a subject line of letter to the editor.

Campus View

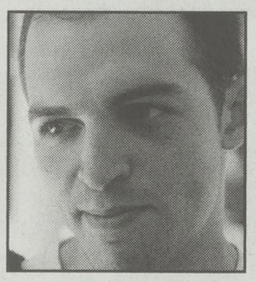
What do you think of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority raising their fares?

PHOTOS BY JONATHAN GIBBY
TEXT BY SARAH BISHOP



"I used to take the metro downtown and it was a pretty good deal. But now it's rising. It's not really good for other people, so I think they should keep it how it is."

Karnig Barseghian
business managment



"I think it's unfortunate and unjust. Those in need already have trouble paying the fares. It's a poor decision."

Colin Wilkins
engineering



"Well [the increase] is a lot, but if they need it I guess it's alright."

Monica Hansen
undeclared



"I think that obviously people are catching the bus because they don't have the money for a car and so increasing the fares makes it difficult for [them]."

Ryan Perry
nursing

WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

Thursday, Sept. 20

Writing Center Workshop
"Thesis Statements"
1 p.m.
H100

Friday, Sept. 21

Women's Socccer
Valley at Moorpark
Moorpark College
4 p.m.

Cross Country
WSC Preview
Cuesta College
3:30 p.m.

Women's Water Polo
Mt. Sac Tournament
Mt. San Antonio College
Time TBA

Saturday, Sept. 22

Men's Football:
Valley at Compton
Cabrillo High School
7 p.m.

Women's Water Polo:
Mt. Sac tournament
Mt. San Antonio College
Time TBA

Tuesday, Sept. 25

Think Transfer!

CSU Dominguez Hills Rep 10-1p.m.
CSU Los Angeles Rep 5-7 p.m.
CSU Northridge Rep 10-1 p.m. and 5-7p.m.
CSU Application workshop 1-2 p.m.

Guarantee your admission to a UC by participating in a UC Transfer Admission Guarantee Program. For program information, qualifications and applications visit the Career/Transfer Center, Adm. 126, or call (818) 947-2646. All events held in the Career/Transfer Center.

ASU

Apply for a student government position. Applications are available in Campus Center 102.
Deadline to apply is Sept. 21.

New CD Releases:

Eddie Vedder - Into The Wild [Soundtrack]

Chamillionaire - Ultimate Victory

KT Tunstall - Drastic Fantastic

James Blunt - All The Lost Souls

Diana Krall - The Very Best of Diana Krall

Twista - Adrenaline Rush 2007

New Found Glory - From The Screen To Your Stereo 2

The Donnas - Bitchin'

HIM - Venus Doom

Hard-Fi - Once Upon A Time In The West

Motion City Soundtrack - Even If It Kills Me

Simon & Garfunkel - Live 1969

Ministry - The Last Sucker

Dropkick Murphys - The Meanest of Times

Reba McEntire - Reba Duets

Barry Manilow - The Greatest Songs of the Seventies

New Theatre Releases:

Good Luck Chuck
Jessica Alba, Dane Cook

The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford
Brad Pitt, Casey Affleck

Into the Wild
Emile Hirsch

Resident Evil: Extinction
Milla Jovovich

Sydney White
Amanda Bynes

DVD Releases:

Death Proof

We Are Marshall

Monarchs are Alive with the Sound of Music

BY ELI BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

Forget the Walt Disney Concert Hall, Valley College will be offering audiences musical entertainment to rival Disney, minus the view of Frank Gehry's steely architecture.

The Music Concert Series will treat students and the community to four months of melodies with an assortment of music beginning Sept. 20.

"Audiences can expect a wide variety of music like jazz and what might be considered world music," said Christian Nova, assistant professor and organizer of the concert series. "We will also have a Daniel Pearl World Music Day Concert, which is an organization set up by his wife to represent his life through music."

The Daniel Pearl World Music Day Concert, in memory of the Wall Street Journal reporter who was kidnapped and murdered in Pakistan, will be co-sponsored by Valley's Associated Student Union. It is just one of the shows that students and members of the community will be able to attend at no cost every other Thursday at the Music Recital Hall.

There will be 19 concerts offered in the Music Series. They will include performances by Valley faculty and students as well as off campus musicians. Performances will range from solos to orchestras with 50 to 80 musicians.

"We hope to attract large audiences," said Michael Mertens, chairman of the music department. "We want to encourage music appreciation."

With the music series just days before opening, Will Alvarado, a music education major, is feeling some pressure.

"I do worry about criticism, whether audiences like it or not," Alvarado said. "I know I'm a good player, but I do worry." On the other hand, "I also get compliments."

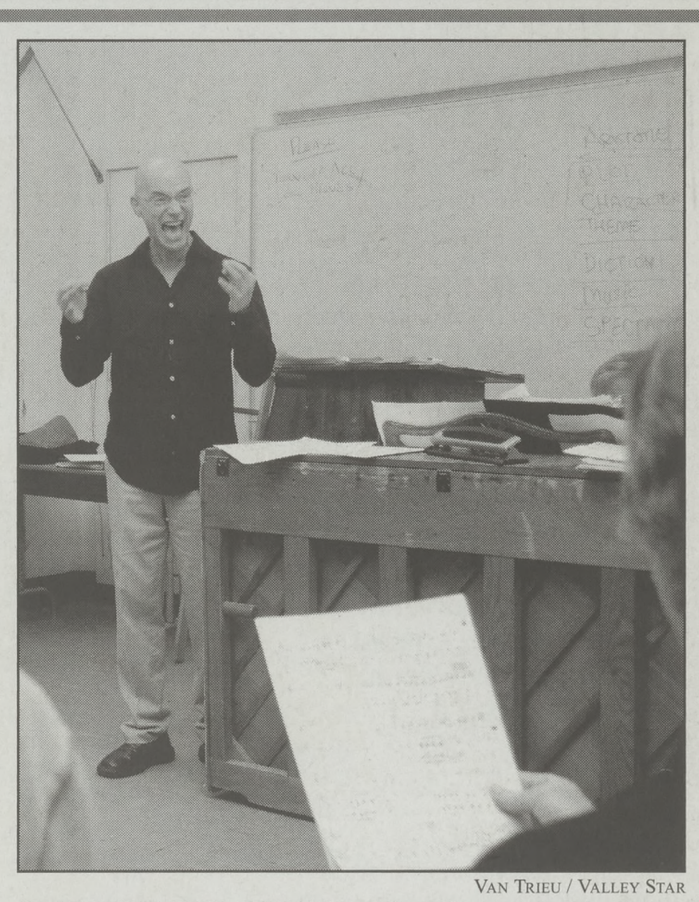
When the curtains open, Alvarado will get to hear the results of his work.

"The most rewarding thing is just being able to get on stage. After going through practice, not starting so good, and then performing being the end part."

Nova believes the jazz concert will be a popular one.

"Jazz always draws big crowds," he said. "We usually pack the house."

For students who would like to attend a show, tickets can be attained at the Music Office and prices range from $5 to $25.



VAN TRIEU / VALLEY STAR

ONCE MORE WITH FEELING - Glenn Carlos, choral activities director at Valley, urges his singers to reach a high note during rehearsal for the Valley College Concert Series jazz ensemble.

Valley College Adopts a New Annie

Annie
Nov. 9-10, 16-17

BY BRAD TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

A dozen dancing hopefuls put their best foot forward last Tuesday to audition for a role in Valley College's production of "Annie."

The red-headed, no pupil eyed depression era little orphan makes her way to the Valley theatre arts stage this November, courtesy of director Cathy Pyles. And there was no shortage of students ready to bust a move to get a role.

"I am hoping I get a bigger role," said two time "Annie" vet and early childhood development major Sarah Raphael. "I have been like everything in this show."

As the ladies hit the stage, they were given impromptu dancing lessons from the show's choreographer Marjorie Vander Hoff, who seemed to have boundless energy. She led them through a barrage of quick- stepped combos and some dance called the "turkey trot." Shouting simply "yes" or "no" to the budding starlets, she prepared them for their auditions.

"I have been doing this a long time," said a laughing Vander Hoff. "I loved the kids. They were great and professional."

Almost 30 kids showed up the previous Saturday for the coveted role of little orphan Annie, a role that marked the beginning for many stars like Sarah Jessica Parker. When asked which of the child actors won the part, director Pyles was cagey as she showed me head shots of a few of the really cute kids.

"We have some dynamite kids," said Pyles. "I have five Annies I could have chosen, they were all great."

But like so many orphans, only one could make the cut to belt out some of the trademark tunes that made us all sure that the sun would indeed come out tomorrow.

The new Annie makes her debut on stage Nov. 9th, 10th and 16th & 17th. For more information call (818) 947-2787.



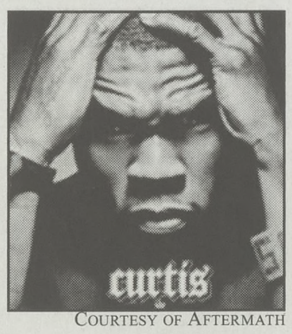
PAUL OLDEN / VALLEY STAR

Let's Dance! - Choreographer Marjorie Vander Hoff demonstrates dance routines for the new musical "Annie."

CD REVIEW

50 Cent Revisits Old Stomping Grounds

50 Cent's latest release is a return to his roots, but falls short.



COURTESY OF AFTERMATH

BY MARISSA MEYER
STAFF WRITER

50 Cent's new album, "Curtis" takes you back to the time when 50 wasn't a superstar. It portrays a real sense of who he was in the past and the things he went through. He boasts about his money, his cars and his former life of drug dealing.

His songs have a very different style than Kanye West's. In "Can't Tell Me Nothing," West says, "As soon as I get my money right" while 50 has a song called "I Get Money." 50's album is about struggle and crime whereas Kanye's album is about education and his view of society.

50 Cent has a lot of great guest artists on his tracks such as Akon, Robin Thicke, Justin Timberlake, Timbaland, Eminem, Nicole Scherzinger, Young Buck and Mary J. Blige. He worked with well-known producers Dr. Dre, Timbaland, Eminem and DJ Khalil.

5o had 4 songs on the radio before the release of the album which included "Straight to the Bank," "Amusement Park," "I Get Money," and "Ayo Technology."

With the collaboration of artists and producers, you can see the different sides of 50 Cent. For example, the songs "My Gun Go Off" and "Man Down" show 50's harder side. In these songs, he revisits his days on the streets and his gangster mentality. The song "Follow My Lead" shows 50's softer side by saying he knows how to treat a lady. There was a lot of hype for the album release on Sept. 11 because Kanye West dropped his new album, "Graduation," the same day. Both artists have huge egos and that's what created the buzz.

"I'm King Kong. Kanye is human," 50 said. "Humans run when they see King Kong, because they're scared."

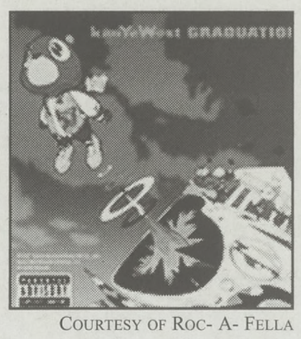
50 cent was eager to sell more records. In fact, he went so far as to say he would retire if West outsold him during their debut week. Within 24 hours of the release of "Curtis," 50 Cent sold 310,000 copies, 100,000 fewer copies sold than West's.

50 Cent's first album, "Get Rich or Die Tryin'" sold more than 800,000 copies in 4 days and was the highest selling LP in 2003. His second album, "The Massacre," sold around 1.14 million in 4 days and was the second highest selling album in 2005.

CD REVIEW

Less is More with "Graduation"

West proves self-appreciation and awareness equals success.



COURTESY OF ROC- A- FELLA

BY SHEILA KOOCHAK
STAFF WRITER

As soon as Kanye West's new album, "Graduation" starts, listeners are hooked.

Here's the idea: West uses a hip-hop star's mixture of self-centeredness, self-appreciation, self-intelligence, and self-elevation.

Just like his last two Grammy Award-winning albums "College Dropout" and "Late Registration," "Graduation" is a powerful record containing everything from the soulful hip-hop beats of "Champion" to the soft punk hooks of "Stronger" to the lyrics of "Can't Tell Me Nothing."

West's album is just another reason why he's such a phenomenal hip-hop beat maker and lyricist. This album requires repeated listens on a daily basis.

In today's hip-hop world, most artists can't even complete an album without getting

numerous artists to do guest appearances. This multi-platinum artist collaborated with only four MCs and one DJ. This record confirms that West does not need to duplicate beats or get appearances to attract an audience.

With "Graduation," West admits that his ego has reached new heights. "Barry Bonds" (featuring Lil' Wayne) states, "Top 5 MC's you isn't got to remind me/ Top 5 MC's you got to rewind me/ I'm high up on the line, you can get behind me/ But my head's so big you can't sit behind me."

One of the most upbeat songs, "Flashing Lights" has a smooth feel to it with striking kicks that dissolve into a fade of key stabs. But the fact that West kept the tempo down on this one is ideal, making the track sound like the hot spot that Kanye found some of these "Drunk & Hot Girls" in.

On his smash hit single "Stronger," he adds a little bit of flavor to the track by incorporating soft rock with an electronic hook from Daft Punk. This takes the album away from the typical hip-hop sound.

"Graduation" is definitely one of West's most accomplished pieces of

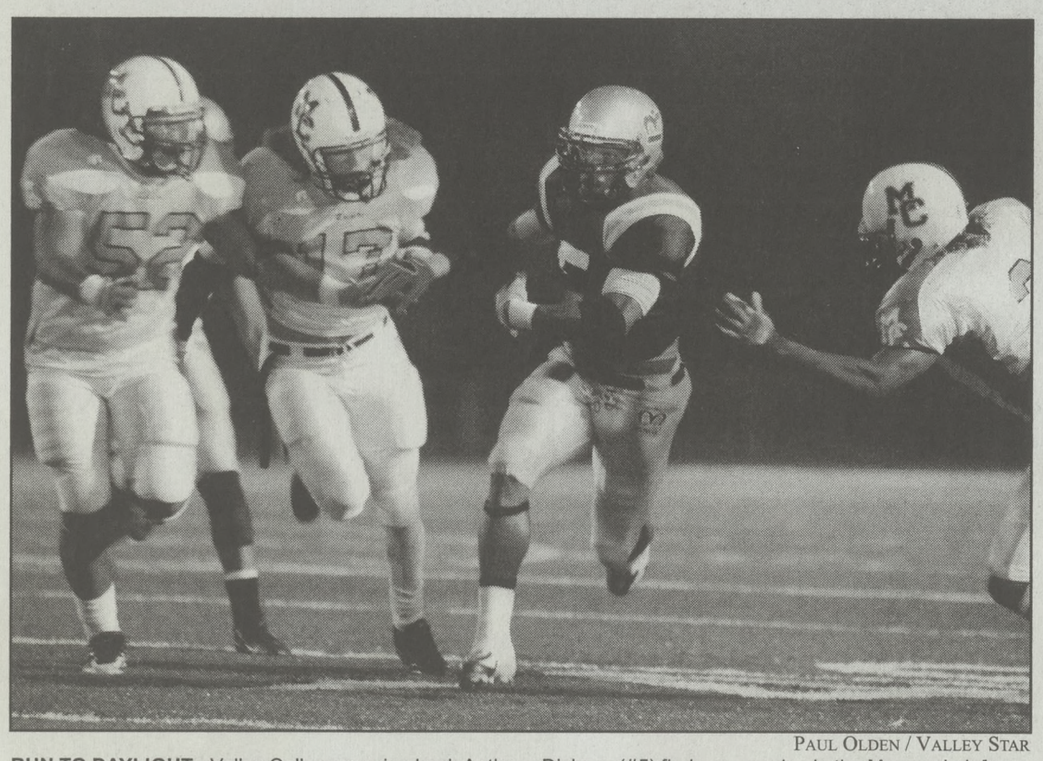
work. It proves his talent, ambition and passion for the art of music. Nearly every

song on "Graduation" is memorable for its exceptional hooks, its clever

lyrics and its overall sound.

For those wanting more, Kanye West has begun working on his next album titled "Universecity."

WESTERN STATE CONFERENCE FOOTBALL



PAUL OLDEN / VALLEY STAR

RUN TO DAYLIGHT - Valley College running back Anthony Dickson (#5) finds an opening in the Moorpark defense for 13 of his 116 yards on 22 carries. The Monarchs lost the home game, Saturday Sept.15. Valley's record falls to 0-3.

Moorpark Raids Valley

BY DENNIS ALAMINA
STAFF WRITER

After losing a close game last week to Antelope Valley 14-7, the Monarchs were hoping to win the next game at home against the Moorpark Raiders. Instead, they were defeated 33-17.

After quickly exchanging possessions, Moorpark's kicker, Nico Grasu, made a 20- yard field goal against getting Moorpark an early three- point lead.

On 4th and 3 with 4:49 left in the 1st, Monarchs kicker Paul Landon ties the game at three.

Now with the game tied at three, Moorpark's offense ran all over the Monarch defense to set up another field goal when Grasu makes another field goal to get a 6-3 lead over Valley.

When Valley's leading tackler Sione Fale 'Ofa and the rest of the Monarch defense caused Moorpark's quarterback Bryan Randolph to fumble the ball early in the second quarter, they still were not able connect with a good drive. Instead the ball was turned over back to Moorpark, and when running back James Walker scores at 7:01 in the second quarter over Valleys defense, the score is now13-3, Moorpark.

Valley's defense was still getting pushed over by the Raiders offense when Walker scored another touchdown with 3:34 left in the first half, making the score now 20-3, Moorpark.

Walker scored for a third time with 11:17 in the third quarter making the score now 26-3.

After another Jackson interception late in the third quarter, Moorpark scores another touchdown with the score now 33- 3.

Monarch linebacker Anthony Kahill sacked Randolph in the end zone resulting in a safety. Jackson threw yet another interception but the Monarch defense was able to hold on. In the fourth quarter, Valley running back Anthony Dickson scores on a three-yard touchdown run.

Dickson added another touchdown in the waning minutes to make the final score 17-33. Dickson ran for 116 yards on 22 rushing attempts with two touchdowns.

The Monarchs, now 0-3, are going into Long Beach to face the Compton Tartars at Cabrillo High School on Sept. 22. Kickoff is at 7p.m.

Monarchs Race to the Finish Line at Beaver Meet

Valley brings its running shoes to the West Valley at the Pierce College Beaver Invitational.

BY OSCAR CHICAS
STAFF WRITER

After falling short at their first two meets of the season, the Monarchs seem to want to make up some lost ground. The Beaver Invitational was held at Pierce College Saturday, where the course is familiar and considered the Monarchs' home away from home. Coach Francois Wolman and Yannica Allian had high expectations for their team, which they established this week against excellent opponents.

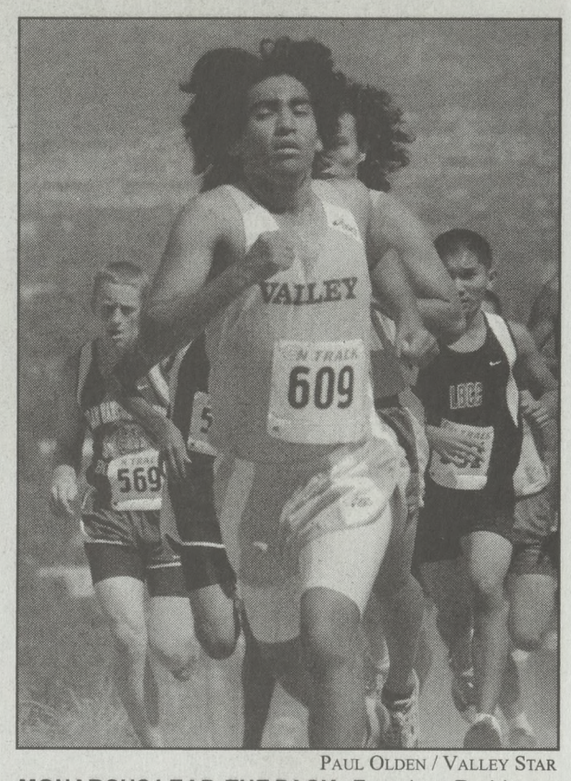
Several of the Western State Conference schools arrived for this contest, which included perennial powerhouses Glendale College and Long Beach, which is ranked 15th in California.

Conditions were as predicted, hot at 90 degrees by 10 a.m. The course consists of winding dirt paths that bottleneck contestants at two wide, which can make it hard to pass if you get trapped behind a pack. It also holds two steep summits known as Hernia and Puke, which can tire out the best runners.

When asked how the runners could fair better and beat hardships during the race, Coach Habib Tobejiah said, "It's always good to run with a teammate because they can motivate each other and prevent getting boxed in by oncoming opponents."

Freshman Andrew Salg and German Sanchez did just that during the first mile of the 4 mile race. They got three places behind Miguel Cisneros, who went on to win the race. Salg lead Valley with a 5th place overall finish in a time of 23:13. Sanchez finished in 11th with a time of 23:57, while fellow teammates German Cruz, Jesus Aguilar and Francisco Rodriguez rounded out Valley's top five with 17th, 29th and 33rd place finishes. Valley ranked 3rd with an average time of 24:43.40, behind Glendale and Long Beach and only missed 2nd place by 7 points.

The women's team took the field shorthanded with only five athletes for the 3 mile race. Freshman Elva Lopez was the first among her teammates to finish with a time of 22:55 placed 18th and was closely followed by sister Erika Lopez, who placed 21st with a time of 23:31. Silvia Albuniga, Kathy Rodriguez and Rebecca Sanders followed suit by placing 32nd, 33rd and 53rd. The team finished with an average time of 24:31.84, which ranked them in 4th out of 7.



PAUL OLDEN / VALLEY STAR

MONARCHS LEAD THE PACK - Francisco Rodriguez ran in the Beaver invitational at Pierce College in Woodland Hills on Saturday.

"I liked what I saw. We had a good race and you have to remember that they just came back from summer break so they're not going to be at their best, but we'll get there," said Coach Allian on the outcome of his girls.

At the end of the day's festivities, the team ate at Subway, conversing all the while about the race where Carlos Paredes words rang true, "The faster you run, the faster you finish, so you can eat."

The Monarchs' next event is scheduled for Friday Sept. 21st at the WSC Preview at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo at 3:30 p.m.

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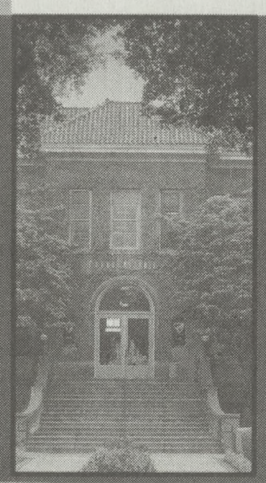
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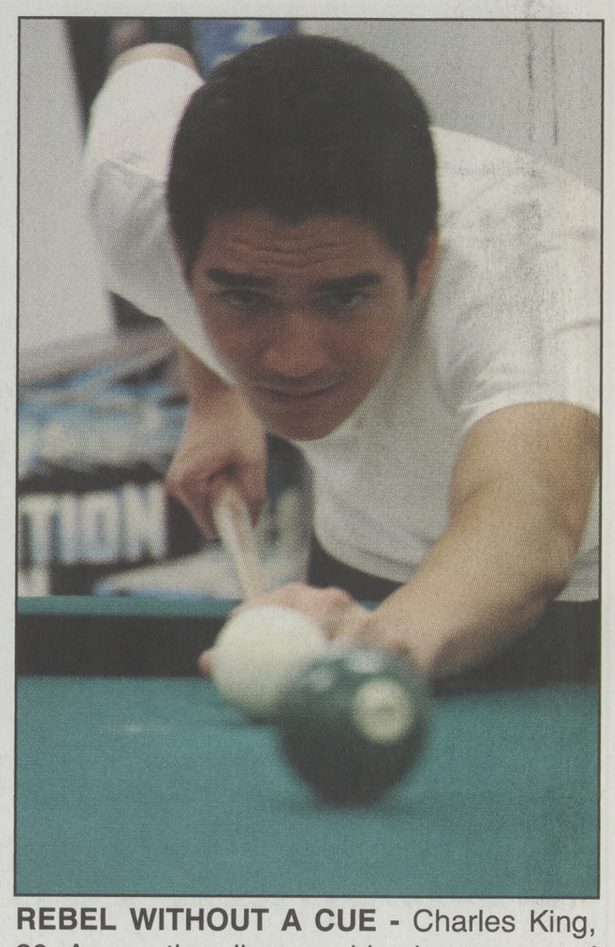


NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

The University of Values



PASOI-A-PALOOZA - Carlos Parraguirre, 19, Civil Engineering, hides his hand well from Agustin Rios, 19, Business, in a game of Pasoi at the cafeteria.



REBEL WITHOUT A CUE - Charles King, 20, Accounting, lines up his shot on one of pool tables in the Lions Den.



THUMBS OF FURY - Just in case her career in Broadcasting doesn't pan out, Nazy, 21, spends time developing her skills in the art of thumb wrestling.

Pastimes At Valley College

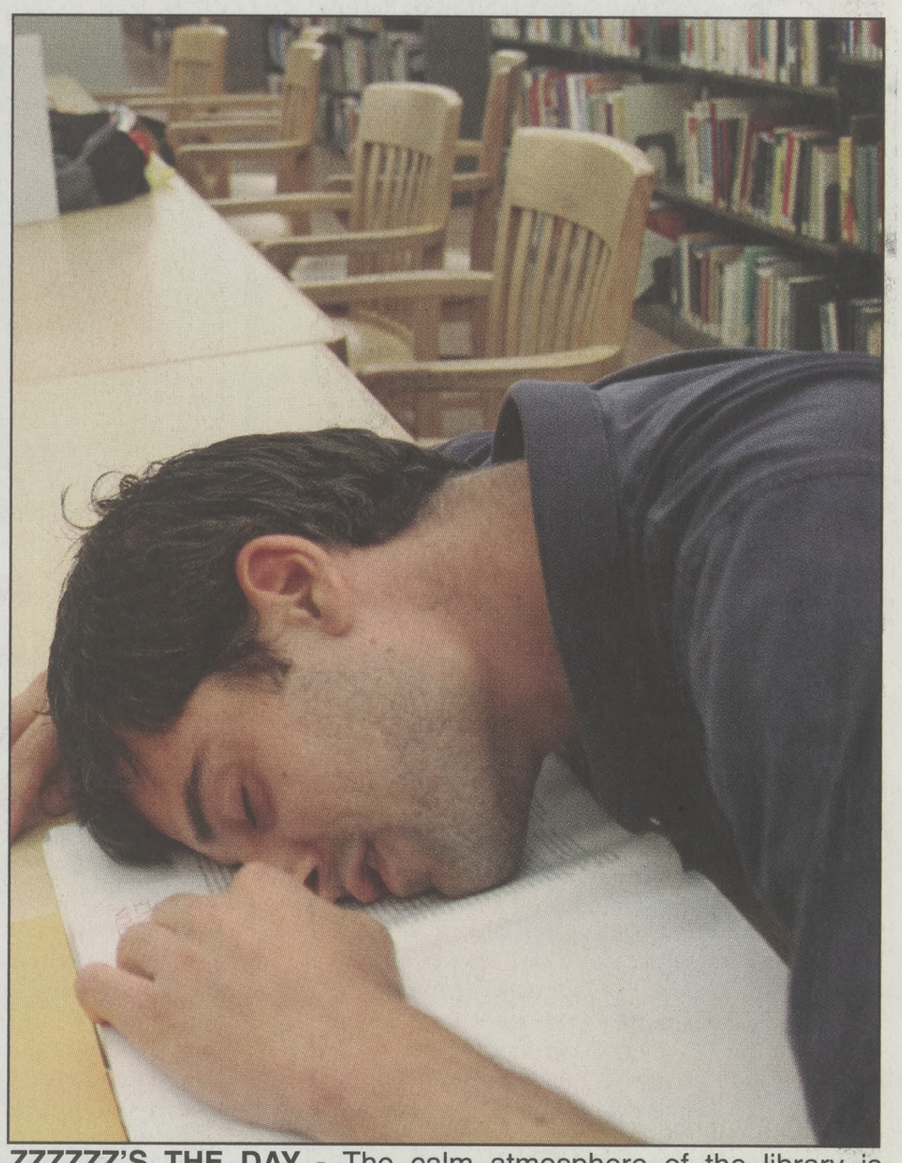
The fun in the sun of summer is rapidly fading the deeper we get into the semester. This means facing reality; our days will not consist of backyard BBQs and endless hours at the beach any longer. But the spirit of summer is not dead, it lives in our pastimes during the few leisurely moments we have on campus before running off to our next class.

Whether it is catching up on a few hours of missed sleep in the library or thumb wrestling outside of the cafeteria, we have adapted the free-spirited pace of summer to campus life.

Photos and Text by Jonathan Gibby



NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK - Rebeca Hernandez, 19, Theatre, enjoys spending her free time on campus studying on the lawn.



ZZZZZZ'S THE DAY - The calm atmosphere of the library is an ideal place for concentration, or as Daniel Penslar, 32, a Commercial Music Major understands, a fabulous place to sleep.